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Alberto Ayala

October 28, 2022

Mr. Steven Cliff, Ph.D., Executive Officer
c/o Laura Zarembo-Schmidt, Air Resources Engineer
California Air Resources Board
9480 Telstar Avenue #4
El Monte, CA 91731

Subject: Submittal of the Sacramento Region Year 5 Recommendation for AB 617 Community Air Protection Program

Dear Mr. Steven Cliff:

In 2019, the California State Resources Board (CARB) selected the South Sacramento-Florin community for air monitoring as one of the Year 1 communities for AB 617, the Community Air Protection Program. The Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (Air District) worked arduously with the residents and business representatives on our South Sacramento-Florin Community Steering Committee (CSC) to develop and implement a successful Community Air Monitoring Plan (CAMP). For Years 2, 3, and 4 (2020, 2021, and 2022), CARB did not select any additional communities for the Sacramento region.

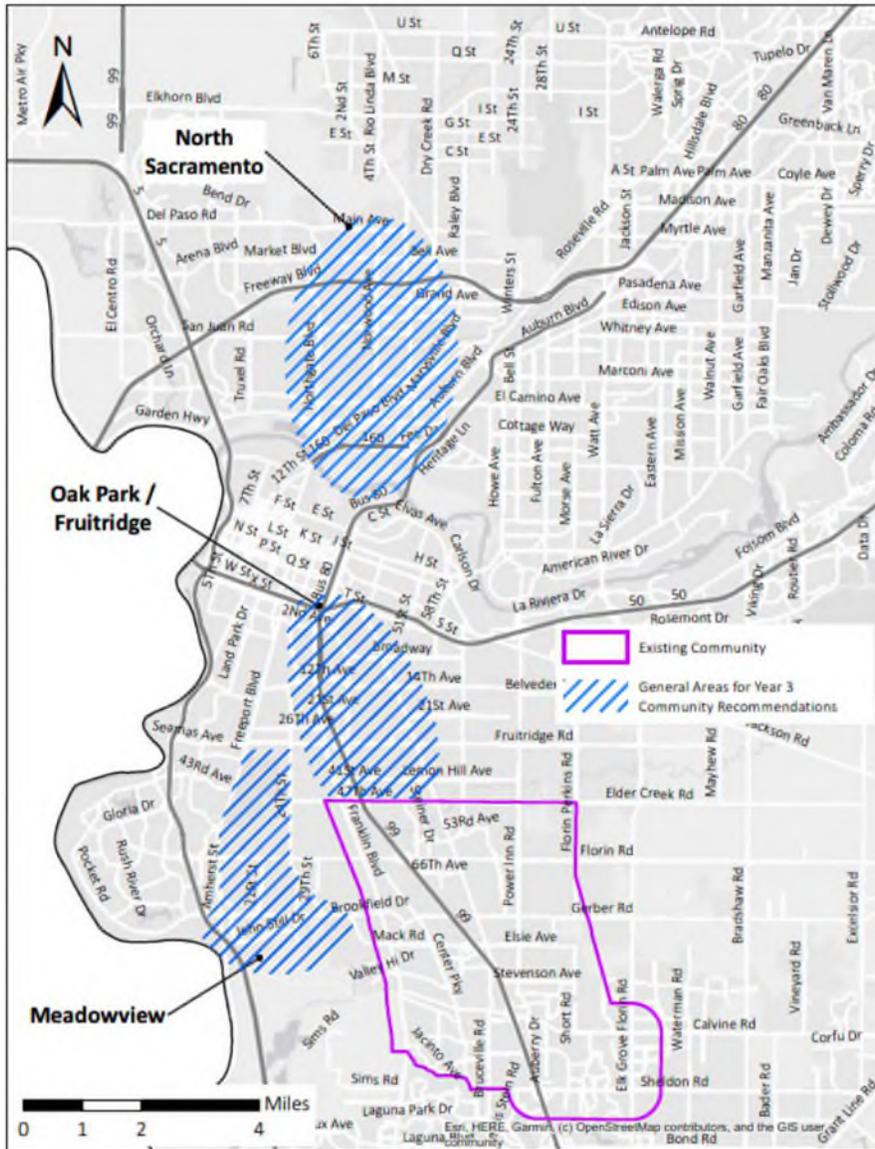
We greatly appreciate the support CARB has shown in the implementation of the AB 617 program. However, additional funding is still desperately needed to achieve the goals of the program. The Air District has continued to make great strides in helping vulnerable communities within Sacramento County, but finds itself limited by the lack of funding. We have worked with residents, community groups and business representatives on our South Sacramento-Florin CSC and in other areas throughout the county, to both initiate and support community led efforts in vulnerable communities.

For the Year 5 (2023) community selection by CARB, the Air District, with continued support from elected officials and regional community voices, nominate three communities. These communities are: North Sacramento, Oak Park/Fruitridge, and Meadowview as illustrated in Figure 1. We are urging the state to commit the necessary additional funding and resources and select these communities, which have the highest documented air pollution burden for Year 5 of the program as air monitoring communities. Valley Vision and its partners through CARB's Community Air Grant have already laid the foundation in these communities for more in-depth air quality discussions and monitoring.

Their attached letter of support (Attachment A) shares some of these efforts and the framework prepared.

The collaboration, energy and support through our ongoing efforts make it essential that adequate funding is provided and expanded upon, so that these efforts meet the needs of these at-risk communities to identify and address local air quality issues.

Figure 1: Recommended General Community Areas for Year 5



Similar efforts by SMUD supports the conclusion for these three communities in their Sustainable Communities Resource Priorities Map (Attachment B), which shows areas underserved or in distress by lack of community development, income, housing, employment opportunities, transportation, medical treatment, nutrition, education and a clean environment.

As part of the Air District's continuing commitment to the principles of AB 617, we continue to do everything we can to enhance existing air quality programs and work with community leaders and stakeholders to reduce air pollution burdens. Some examples include:

- Continuing our collaboration in the Sacramento Neighborhoods Activating on Air Quality (SNAAQ) project and providing technical expertise to project partner organizations. This project supported community capacity building and initial monitoring in two of our nominated communities, North Sacramento and Oak Park/Fruitridge, and lays the groundwork for future selection into the AB 617 program.
- Working with community organizations and our Steering Committee on incentive project priorities and eligibility beyond Community Air Protection funds.
- Implementation of a new Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) program, which provides new opportunities through the violation settlement process to fund projects that will improve public health and air quality in neighborhoods most burdened by air pollution.
- Increased efforts through an intense, multi-year effort to identify and ensure businesses operating in the South Sacramento-Florin community have necessary air quality permits and were operating in compliance with regulatory requirements. The results of our effort showed only a handful of businesses were operating out of compliance and only two were operating without the appropriate permit.
- Generated an online map of permitted sources to show the geographical distribution of stationary sources to help address community questions and concerns that there was a high density of stationary sources located within disadvantaged communities. The map is posted online for public access and is one way the District is already meeting legislative requirements found in AB 1749.
- The Attorney General award of \$1.96 million to Sacramento County Department of Health Services to model relationships between air quality and respiratory health, educate and engage with residents, and inform subsequent mitigation efforts with more than half the funds going to community organizations participating in the project.
- The Air District is working with the City of Sacramento as part of the city's Climate Implementation Work Plan to bring more personal air monitors to schools, residents and businesses in disadvantaged communities and increase outreach and education on air pollution impacts.

In closing, we remain committed to implementing AB 617 to further improve the well-being of our residents by addressing long-standing air quality disparities. We have received considerable support to expand our AB 617 efforts into these communities. The continuing challenge for us and our communities is adequate state funding for this and other unfunded mandates. With your support and additional state funding, we look forward to expanding on the promise of AB 617 to many more of our most

marginalized and vulnerable residents in the Sacramento region. If you have any questions regarding our recommendations, please contact Mr. Mark Loutzenhiser, Division Manager, Program Coordination Division, at 916-261-6414, MLoutzenhiser@airquality.org.

Sincerely,



Alberto Ayala, Ph.D., M.S.E.
Executive Director/Air Pollution Control Officer

Attachment: Letter of Support from Valley Vision

cc via email:

Mr. Eric Guerra
Chair, Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District
Council Member, City of Sacramento

Mr. Phil Serna
County Supervisor, Sacramento County
Board Member, Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District
Board Member, California Air Resources Board

The Honorable Dr. Richard Pan
Senate District 6, State Senate

The Honorable Kevin McCarty
Assembly District 7, State Assembly

The Honorable Jim Cooper
Assembly District 9, State Assembly

The Honorable Christina Garcia
Assembly District 58, State Assembly

The Honorable Eduardo Garcia
Assembly District 56, State Assembly

The Honorable Doris Matsui
California 6th Congressional District

The Honorable Ami Bera
California 7th Congressional District

Mr. Bill Knowlton, Co-Lead of the South Sacramento-Florin Air Quality Steering Committee
and Executive Director, Mack Road Partnership

Ms. Patricia Shelby, Co-Lead of the South Sacramento-Florin Air Quality Steering Committee
Air Quality Steering Committee

Ms. Deldi Reyes, Director, Office of Community Air Protection, California Air Resources
Board

Mr. Mark Loutzenhiser, Division Manager, Program Coordination Division, Sacramento
Metropolitan Air Quality Management District

Ms. Janice Lam Snyder, Program Manager, Program Coordination Division, Sacramento
Metropolitan Air Quality Management District

Attachment A: Valley Vision Letter of Support



 3400 3rd Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95817

 (916) 325-1630

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October 27, 2022

California Air Resources Board
Office of Community Air Protection
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

To whom it may concern:

On behalf of Valley Vision's Board of Directors and staff, I am writing to voice our support for Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD)'s nomination of additional communities in its jurisdiction to the AB 617 Community Air Protection Program.

Valley Vision is a civic leadership organization working towards economic prosperity, social equity, and environmental sustainability for all residents in the Sacramento region. Valley Vision is also one of the five champion organizations leading the region's federally designated Prosperity Strategy, designed to grow jobs and build a more inclusive economy, with clean air and climate resilience being a key indicator of success.

Through the regional Cleaner Air Partnership, to which both Valley Vision and SMAQMD belong, we were able to successfully advocate for the selection of South Sacramento-Florin as a first-round AB 617 community. SMAQMD has also collaborated with Valley Vision and its partners at Civic Thread, Green Tech Education, and Breathe CA Sacramento Region on a Community Air Grant project, "Sacramento Neighborhoods Activating on Air Quality" (SNAAQ). For the past two years, we have been working with residents of Old North Sacramento/Norwood/Del Paso Heights and Oak



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Park/Fruitridge to build capacity to participate meaningfully in the State's AB 617 Community Air Protection process.

The SNAAQ coalition has achieved a great deal in less than 24 months, including the placement of 19 solar-powered Clarity Node-S air monitors in locations determined by residents, development and deployment of educational curriculum, utilization of best practices in paying residents for their time, and partnership-building among residents, EJ advocates, air quality experts, local business representatives, and others.

We strongly believe that additional communities in the Sacramento region should be considered for this deeply important program, and have begun to build capacity for the formal AB 617 process through our Community Air Grant in two of the three nominated communities. Community-based partners, residents, and others are eager to see air pollution measured quantitatively and emissions reductions realized in these project neighborhoods by way of a formal designation.

In summary, Valley Vision strongly supports the District's nomination of the North Sacramento, Oak Park/Fruitridge, and Meadowview communities for the AB 617 program. If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please reach out by emailing evan.schmidt@valleyvision.org or calling (916) 325-1630.

Sincerely,



Evan Schmidt
CEO

Attachment B: SMUD Sustainable Communities Resource Priorities Map

